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1989/06/19

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Department of State

(E39) INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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ACTION EAP-08

ACTION OFFICE CH-05
INFO J-05 TC-01 P-01 EX-01 PMO-01 RA-01 EAP-05 /820 R2 FL
INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 IHR-07 SS-00 CIAE-00 DODD-00 H-01
NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 MA-09 L-03 AHAD-01 TASE-00
PM-10 AIT-02 PA-02 OH8-01 IHR-00 CA-02 SP-02
SNP-01 PRS-01 DS-00 P-02 T-01 /846 V
-----261822 190900Z /10 18 38

O 190835Z JUN 89
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1044
INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8513
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL SHANGHAI IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL SHENYANG IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE
AT TAIPEI IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CHENGDU POUCH)

UNCLAS BEIJING 16444

FOR OPS CENTER

CGCPC FOR FPA FINNEY

NSC FOR DOUG PAAL

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, SOCI, ASOC, CH
SUBJECT: TFCN: DIPLOMATIC NOTES SENT TO MFA

1. THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTS THE TEXTS OF TWO DIPLOMATIC NOTES DELIVERED TO THE MFA IN RESPONSE TO THE SEARCH OF OUR DIPLOMATIC VEHICLES AND THE STRAFING OF THE DIPLOMATIC COMPOUNDS:

(BEGIN TEXT DIP NOTE 236)

NO. 236

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
(b) TURNS THE SEARCHES OF TWO EMBASSY VEHICLES WHICH WERE DRIVEN BY DIPLOMATS OF OUR MISSION DURING THE NIGHT OF JUNE 8-9, 1989.

ON JUNE 8, 1989, AT APPROXIMATELY 12:00 MIDNIGHT, A U.S. EMBASSY VAN, DIPLOMATIC LICENSE 224-BW24, WAS RETURNING FROM THE AIRPORT WITH SEVEN DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL OF THE MISSION. THE PERSONNEL HAD BEEN AT THE AIRPORT LATE TO ASSIST A CHARTER CONTINENTAL AIRLINES FLIGHT WHICH HAD LANDED EARLIER IN THE EVENING. THE VAN WAS STOPPED AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE AIRPORT ROAD AND THE THIRD RING ROAD AT GUNPOINT BY SOLDIERS OF CHINA'S PEOPLES LIBERATION ARMY. IDENTIFICATION WAS EXAMINED OF ALL THE OCCUPANTS AND THE VAN DOOR WAS OPENED.

A SOLDIER WITH A FLASHLIGHT EXAMINED THE INTERIOR OF THE VAN, VIOLATING DIPLOMATIC PROTOCOL AND FRIGHTENING THE VAN OCCUPANTS. APPROXIMATELY THIRTY MINUTES LATER, A U.S. EMBASSY BUS, DIPLOMATIC LICENSE 224-BW24, WAS ALSO STOPPED NEAR THE SAME INTERSECTION. THIS BUS WAS ALSO DRIVEN BY A DIPLOMAT OF OUR MISSION WHO HAD BEEN ASSISTING THE CONTINENTAL

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FLIGHT CREW AT THE AIRPORT AS WELL. WHILE SEVERAL GUNS (TWO AK-47S AND ONE 9-MM PISTOL) WERE POINTED IN HIS FACE AND THAT OF HIS WIFE, THEIR IDENTITY CARDS AND THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION WERE EXAMINED. A SOLDIER CHECKED THE INTERIOR AND UNDERCARRIAGE OF THE BUS WITH A FLASHLIGHT BEFORE THE TWO DIPLOMATS WERE ALLOWED TO PROCEED.

/ WE WISH TO INFORM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT THESE VEHICLES WERE TRAVELING FOR DIPLOMATIC PURPOSE AND DRIVEN BY LICENSED DIPLOMATIC MISSION PERSONNEL. THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OBJECTS TO THE MISTREATMENT OF OUR DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL AND TO THE SEARCH CONDUCTED OF THESE VEHICLES BY SOLDIERS IN VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL PROTOCOLS. WE INSIST ON A FULL ACCOUNTING OF THESE TWO INCIDENTS.

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SEEKS THE ASSURANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT THE RIGHTS OF OUR DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES BE PRESERVED.
(END TEXT DIP NOTE 236)

/ NOT ONLY IS THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRESSED OVER THE RISK TO THE LIVES OF OUR EMPLOYEES AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, AS WELL AS THE PHYSICAL DAMAGE TO THE APARTMENTS, IT ALSO IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE SERIOUS MENTAL STRAIN ITS EMBASSY PERSONNEL HAVE SUFFERED AS A RESULT OF THE ACTIONS OF THE PEOPLES LIBERATION ARMY. THIS ACTION WAS TAKEN WITHOUT REGARD FOR THE SAFETY AND WELFARE OF DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL EVEN THOUGH THIS EMBASSY HAD BEEN INFORMED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS JUST A SHORT TIME PRIOR TO THE INCIDENT THAT THE SAFETY OF AMERICAN DIPLOMATS WOULD BE ASSURED. THE MINISTRY

HAD STATED THAT OUR SAFETY COULD BE GUARANTEED AS LONG AS WE ADHERED TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE MARTIAL LAW COMMAND. THE TWO SMALL CHILDREN WHO WERE IN APARTMENT 1-1-75 AT THE TIME IT WAS FIRED ON OBVIOUSLY HAD NOT VIOLATED ANY PROVISIONS OF THE MARTIAL LAW REGULATIONS.

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DEMANDS A FULL ACCOUNTING OF THIS INCIDENT AND WISHES ASSURANCES THAT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILL TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO CORRECT THE DAMAGE SUSTAINED. THE EMBASSY TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REINFORCE THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.
(END TEXT DIP NOTE 235)

2. SUBSEQUENT TO THE FILING OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE 235, POST DISCOVERED AN ADDITIONAL APARTMENT IN BUILDING ONE OF THE JIANGUOMENWAI COMPOUND. APARTMENT 1-2-71 WHICH WAS UNOCCUPIED AT THE TIME BUT IS LEASED BY THE USGOV WAS ALSO STRUCK BY SEVERAL ROUNDS OF RIFLE FIRE. THE AMBASSADOR WAS INFORMED BY OTHER FOREIGN DIPLOMATS THAT AT LEAST TWO ROUNDS ALSO STRUCK THE SANLITUN DIPLOMATIC COMPOUND ON THE 4TH AND 6TH FLOORS OF BUILDING ONE. THE FIFTH FLOOR OF THIS BUILDING HOUSES APARTMENTS FOR THE DCM AND ECON COUNSELOR.
LILLEY

NOTE BY DC/T: (b) OMISSION. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

United States Department of State
Office of FOI, Privacy, & Classification Review
Review Authority: MILLER, ROBERT
Date: 01/16/96
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